(b) whether Government is promoting the use of mosquito nets to control malaria;

(c) whether Government should provide more mosquito nets on the basis of number of families in districts; and

(d) the reasons for not allocating mosquito nets to the State during the years 2006, 2007 and 2008?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the information from the State, no such long term scheme has been proposed. However, the regular malaria control activities are being carried out in these districts under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

(b) Yes.

(c) For focused interventions Government of India provides mosquito bed nets to identified population in high malaria endemic areas which requires vector control intervention.

(d) For providing focused interventions in the most endemic areas in the country, mosquito bed nets are provided only under special projects assisted by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) and the World Bank. These projects were not in operation in Madhya Pradesh and in some other States during 2006, 2007 and 2008. In these States, other vector control interventions such as Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) etc. were resorted to.

Funds released to the States for tackling sickle-cell-anaemia

3120. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved any scheme for funding State Governments for sickle-cell-anaemia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount disbursed to such State Governments in the year 2008-09; and

(c) status of utilization by each State of the amount disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Bio-medical waste management

3121. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the hospitals in the capital are not dealing with their waste according to the set guidelines and substantial part of articles like used syringes are back into the market without treatment;

(b) whether it is a fact that 4.25 lakhs syringes are discarded by the city hospitals in the capital daily and only 30-40 per cent are incinerated or destroyed and the rest come back to circulation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government against those hospitals that are not following the rules of bio-medical waste management?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. The State Pollution Control Board in respect of States and Pollution Control Committee in respect of UTs are the prescribed authorities to implement and enforce Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and amendments thereof.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College and Shrimati S.K. Hospital, New Delhi are concerned, the Bio Medical Waste including syringes are disposed as per the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998.

Post-graduate courses in medical colleges

3122. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is very difficult to join post-graduate courses such as MS/MD after MBBS;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken including opening/starting of more postgraduate courses in medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India, at present approximately 23000 students pass out in various medical colleges across the country for whom approximately 11600 (*i.e.* more than 50%) seats are available in different PG courses. Further, the National Board of Examination has already provided educational facilities in various DNB courses of which nearly 5000 are available annually as per the information provided by the National Board. Thus, postgraduate facilities are available for nearly 70% of student passing out as MBBS through out the country.

(c) Medical Council of India regulations are being amended to rationalise, student-teacher ratio, to increase the number of doctors. This Ministry has proposed to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been